IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims and add new claims 19-21 and re-presented claims 22-27 as follows:

1. (Previously amended) A buffer management system comprising:

a buffer pool further comprised of an amount of fixed storage and an amount of virtual storage;

a target maximum fixed value for the amount of fixed storage, the target maximum fixed value dynamically alterable by a system administrator;

a target maximum virtual value for the amount of virtual storage, the target maximum virtual value dynamically alterable by a system administrator; and

a buffer manager for dynamically varying the amount of fixed storage and the amount of virtual storage based on a comparison of present usage of the amount of fixed storage and the amount of virtual storage to target maximum fixed and target maximum virtual values.

2. (Original) The buffer management system of claim 1, wherein the buffer pool is further comprised of fixed, pageable and released logical partitions and each of the buffers in the buffer pool resides in a state comprising one of said logical partitions.

3. (Original) The buffer management system according to claim 2, further comprising a buffer index table further comprising buffer index elements wherein each entry represents one buffer in the buffer pool.

4. (Original) The buffer management system according to claim 3, wherein said buffer index elements further comprise a buffer state information field which represents the logical partition where the buffer resides and a pointer field to the next available buffer in the same state within the buffer pool.

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5-7. (Canceled)

9 8. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

a buffer pool further comprised of an amount of fixed storage and an amount of virtual storage;

a target maximum fixed value for the amount of fixed storage, the target maximum fixed value dynamically alterable by a system administrator;

a target maximum virtual value for the amount of virtual storage, the target maximum virtual value dynamically alterable by a system administrator; and

a buffer manager for dynamically varying the amount of fixed storage and the amount of virtual storage based on a comparison of present usage of the amount of fixed storage and the amount of virtual storage to target maximum fixed and target maximum virtual values.

10 9. (Original) The article of manufacture according to claim 9 8, wherein the buffer pool is further comprised of fixed, pageable and released logical partitions.

11 10. (Original) The article of manufacture according to claim 10 9, further comprising a buffer index table further comprising buffer index elements wherein each entry represents one buffer in the buffer pool.

12 11. (Original) The article of manufacture according to claim 14 10, wherein said buffer index elements further comprise a buffer state information field which represents the logical partition where the buffer resides and a pointer field to the next available buffer in the same state within the buffer pool.

12-14. (Canceled)

~~15.~~ 6. (Previously Added) The buffer management system of claim 1, further comprising means for testing whether a buffer resides in physical memory.

16. (Cancelled)

~~17.~~ 13. (Previously Added) The article of manufacture of claim ~~8~~ 9, further comprising means for testing whether a buffer resides in physical memory.

18. (Canceled)

~~19.~~ 7. (New) The buffer management system of claim 1, further comprising a comparator configured to compare present usage of the amount of fixed storage and present usage of the amount of virtual storage to the target maximum fixed value and the target maximum virtual value.

~~20.~~ 8. (New) The buffer management system of claim 1, wherein the fixed storage is configured for memory paging and the virtual storage is configured for memory paging.

~~21.~~ 5. (New) The buffer management system of claim 2, wherein the buffer manager is further configured to dynamically vary the amount of fixed storage and the amount of virtual storage by moving buffers in the buffer pool between the logical partitions.

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~~22.~~ (re-presented – formerly independent claim 5) A buffer management system for an operating environment which supports both fixed and virtual storage comprising:

a buffer pool comprising a plurality of buffers logically partitioned into three states, fixed, pageable and released, said buffer pool further comprising both fixed storage configured for memory storage and virtual storage configured for memory paging;

a target maximum fixed value for the fixed storage, the target maximum fixed value dynamically alterable by a system administrator;

a target maximum virtual value for the virtual storage, the target maximum virtual value dynamically alterable by a system administrator; and

a buffer manager comprising system target usage values for said fixed and virtual storage and a comparitor for comparing actual fixed virtual usage values to target usage values, wherein said buffer manager varies the amount of fixed and virtual storage used by moving buffers in said buffer pool between said logical partitions.

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~~25.~~ (re-presented – formerly dependent claim 6) The buffer management system of claim ~~22~~, further comprising a buffer index table further comprising buffer index elements wherein each entry represents one buffer in the buffer pool.

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~~24.~~ (re-presented – formerly dependent claim 7) The buffer management system of claim ~~23~~, wherein said buffer index elements further comprise a buffer state information field which represents the logical partition where the buffer resides and a pointer field to the next available buffer in the the same state within the buffer pool.

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~~25.~~ 17 (re-presented – formerly independent claim 12) An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a processor and embodying one or more instructions executable by a processor to implement an operating environment which supports both fixed and virtual storage comprising:

a buffer pool comprising a plurality of buffers logically partitioned into three states, fixed, pageable and released, said buffer pool further comprising both fixed storage configured for memory storage and virtual storage configured for memory paging;

a target maximum fixed value for the fixed storage, the target maximum fixed value dynamically alterable by a system administrator;

a target maximum virtual value for the virtual storage, the target maximum virtual value dynamically alterable by a system administrator; and

a buffer manager comprising system target usage values for said fixed and virtual storage and a comparitor for comparing actual fixed virtual usage values to target usage values, wherein said buffer manager varies the amount of fixed and virtual storage used by moving buffers in said buffer pool between said logical partitions.

~~26.~~ 18 (re-presented – formerly dependent claim 13) The article of manufacture of claim ~~25~~ 17, further comprising a buffer index table further comprising buffer index elements wherein each entry represents one buffer in the buffer pool.

~~27.~~ 19 (re-presented – formerly dependent claim 14) The article of manufacture of claim ~~26~~ 18, wherein said buffer index elements further comprise a buffer state information field which represents the logical partition where the buffer resides and a pointer field to the next available buffer in the the same state within the buffer pool.